

application identifying the number of Katrina displaced students attending public schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs—BIA—schools, and nonpublic schools in that State. The application will also describe the process for establishing and providing payments to student accounts for displaced students at nonpublic schools. After receiving Federal dollars, States would in turn make payments to school districts based upon the number of displaced students temporarily enrolled in public schools or nonpublic schools in that district. These payments would be up to \$6,000 annually for each displaced student, except that for students receiving IDEA services the total payment would be as much as \$7,500.

In the case of students enrolled in nonpublic schools, school districts would make payments to student accounts on behalf of each such displaced student. The amount of the payment to each of these student accounts would be the same as that for each student enrolled at a public school unless the tuition, fees, or transportation expenses for the nonpublic student are less than \$6,000, or \$7,500 in the case of a student receiving IDEA services.

This has not been an easy piece of legislation to write because the four of us do not agree on whether or how Federal dollars should follow children to private schools, including religious schools. But we do agree that there must be a one-time, temporary solution to help all of Katrina's displaced children. Therefore, we have found a way to create this one-time temporary impact aid that makes no permanent change in Federal education law and, insofar as we are concerned establishes no precedent—except perhaps for some other hurricane that displaces 372,000 children.

In other words, we have set aside disputing our ideological differences for another day and hope that our colleagues will do the same. We have done this in the spirit suggested by a Washington Post editorial last month which appeared shortly after the hurricane:

Just as it's important not to sneak in an enormous new federal program for ideological reasons, it's also important that neither Democrats, teachers unions nor anyone else rule out for ideological reasons what could be a useful tool for distributing relief funds. There could be pragmatic reasons to put displaced students in private or parochial schools: if, say, school districts are overcrowded, if students have special needs or if that happens to be where they ended up. So it might make sense to attach a sum to each student—whether it's called a voucher or something else—as long as that sum is given out in a limited number of places and for a limited time, certainly not longer than the current school year.

... any solution that would allow students to finish the year with a minimum of fuss and disruption to themselves and their families, and that would prevent school districts in Texas and elsewhere from unduly burdened, should be welcomed.

If each of us maintains our traditional positions, there would be no way to help all of Katrina's displaced chil-

dren. There was nothing traditional about what happened in Hurricane Katrina. We urgently need to help all children on a one-time, emergency basis.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I support the Hurricane Katrina Elementary and Secondary Education Recovery Act introduced by myself, Senator ENZI, Senator KENNEDY and Senator ALEXANDER. This bill will provide much needed relief to the children, families and schools devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Hundreds of thousands of children have been displaced by this disaster. Schools across the country are taking students in offering them some sense of normalcy in an otherwise abnormal situation. We have heard stories of schools all over the country that have opened their doors to new students, including schools in Connecticut. These collective examples point to our education system as an integral part of our communities. Better than any other entity, schools know that children need a safe place to develop and learn in the wake of disaster.

Among the provisions today, is one that will provide financial assistance for displaced students regardless of where they go to school. Public and nonpublic schools will receive assistance that can be used to pay for additional personnel, curricular materials, portable classrooms and even health and mental health services as long as the services provided are secular and neutral in nature and are not used for religious instruction, indoctrination or worship.

This is not a voucher bill. Through a number of mechanisms, this bill maintains public control of public dollars. This bill prohibits Federal dollars from going to religious instruction. And, this bill preserves civil rights protections.

Most important, this bill is temporary in nature. The bill provides temporary emergency impact aid for displaced students. It is temporary in that it sunsets at the end of the current school year, emergency in that it is necessary because of the extraordinary circumstances that we have been presented with, and impact aid as it is assistance for those schools that have been impacted as thousands of children and their families have left the devastated areas.

I cannot underscore this enough—the provisions in this bill are a departure from Federal law but they are a temporary departure in light of extraordinary events. Next school year, in terms of assistance to nonpublic schools, we will go back to the ways things are. We are reaching out to all students here, today, because it makes sense, because it gets kids back on their feet as quickly as possible. We are not changing the generic laws. As we explicitly state in the bill, the level of assistance we are providing to nonpublic schools is being authorized solely because of the unprecedented nature

of the crisis, the massive dislocation of students, and the short duration of the assistance.

FOREIGN SERVICE GRIEVANCE BOARD PROCEDURES

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1905, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1905) to clarify Foreign Service Grievance Board procedures.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1905) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1905

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION. 1. CLARIFICATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE GRIEVANCE BOARD PROCEDURES.

Section 1106(8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4136(8)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by inserting “the involuntary separation of the grievant (other than an involuntary separation for cause under section 610(a)),” after “considering”; and

(2) by striking “the grievant or” and inserting “the grievant, or”.

CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 260 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 260) calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 260) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows: